

Summary of Roles and Processes to Establish Legislative Priorities

As approved by Leadership Council March 18, 2010

ROLES FOR GOVERNING AND ADVISORY BODIES:

The Leadership Council is an independent decision making body responsive to the Governor. The Council sets and approves the strategic priorities for the Puget Sound Partnership, including agency request legislation, budgetary and other related policies that support the protection and restoration of Puget Sound. The members of the Leadership Council would communicate their support for the policy recommendations to members of the Legislature wherever possible and appropriate.

The Ecosystem Coordination Board is an advisory body. It evaluates policy options for legislative priorities of the Puget Sound Partnership. They may provide feedback and send recommendations regarding legislative priorities to the Leadership Council for consideration. The members of the Ecosystem Coordination Board and Science Panel may communicate their support for the policy recommendations to members of the Legislature wherever possible and appropriate.

The Science Panel is an advisory body. It provides scientific input for the legislative priorities of the Puget Sound Partnership. They may provide feedback and send recommendations regarding legislative priorities to the Leadership Council for consideration. The members of the Science Panel may communicate their support for the policy recommendations to members of the Legislature wherever possible and appropriate.

The Puget Sound Partnership serves as the coordinators and implementers of the Legislative priorities. The Executive Director is appointed by the Governor and accountable to the Leadership Council and the Governor. Partnership staff analyzes and prepares information, is inclusive of government and stakeholder feedback, and develops and implements strategies.

PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

(for 2011-2020 legislative sessions):

Prioritizing Goals:

The Leadership Council would review a summary of all policy recommendations in the Action Agenda (local, state and federal), as well as the data and actions specified in the performance management and accountability framework. The Leadership Council would prioritize a small number of policy issues and desired outcomes that would be developed, refined and advanced in the appropriate public policy arena.

Review and Analysis:

In order to provide appropriate analytical measures, the Leadership Council would request the Ecosystem Coordination Board, Science Panel and Puget Sound Partnership staff to develop the following information and provide feedback regarding the policy priorities:

- Issue history
- Related science
- Options to address/resolve issues
- Policies needed to establish or amend (local, state and federal)

Planning Ahead:

The Ecosystem Coordination Board would allocate time in each meeting agenda to review, evaluate and develop recommendations regarding the policy issues prioritized by the Leadership Council.

The Science Panel would allocate time in each meeting agenda to review, evaluate, and develop scientific recommendations regarding legislative issues prioritized by the Leadership Council.

Making Recommendations to the Governor:

Puget Sound Partnership staff compiles information from the Ecosystem Coordination Board and Science Panel to develop DRAFT legislative package, which includes:

- Concept papers
- Fact Sheets
- Draft bill language (z-draft)
- Fiscal Notes
- Stakeholders, tribes, lead and other governmental entities.

The Leadership Council would review this information and formally endorse legislative policy goals to the Governor; understanding the specific details will continue to be a work in progress.

Finalizing the Legislative Agenda:

The Governor would provide feedback about the legislation she authorized as “Agency Request Legislation.” The Leadership Council would then formally endorse the specific policies approved by the Governor and affirm support for other bills leading to the protection and restoration of Puget Sound. The members of the Leadership Council, Ecosystem Coordination Board and Science Panel would communicate their support for the policy recommendations to members of the Legislature wherever possible and appropriate.

General Timeline

January-March (or May depending on short or long session): Begin development of legislative package and review issues for future legislative sessions

March-June: Review and prioritize legislative issues

July-September: Finalize legislative package for presentation to governor

October-December: Refine legislative package for upcoming session and begin looking at priorities for future sessions